

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-213/84/A

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the limiting of animal experiments and the
protection of laboratory animals

- Part A - Motion for a resolution

Rapporteur: Mrs U. SCHLEICHER

PE 89.963/fin./A

At its sitting of 15 September 1983, the European Parliament referred the motions for resolutions tabled pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure by Mrs DURY and Mr GLINNE (Doc. 1-1096/83) and Mrs HERKLOTZ and Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING (Doc. 1-1254/83) to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 3 November 1983, the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mrs SCHLEICHER rapporteur.

The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 21 March 1984, 18 April 1984 and 26 April 1984, and at the last meeting unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole.

The committee decided to request the application of Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure.

The following took part in the vote: Mr COLLINS, chairman; Mrs SCHLEICHER, rapporteur; Mr BERNARD (deputizing for Mr BOMBARD), Mr CERAVOLO (deputizing for Mr SPINELLI), Mr GHERGO, Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mr LIGIOS (deputizing for Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE), Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (deputizing for Mr RYAN), Mr MERTENS (deputizing for Mr ALBER), Mr MUNTINGH, Mr PETERSEN (deputizing for Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK), Mr REMILLY, Mrs SQUARCIALUPI, Mr Karl SCHON (deputizing for Mrs WEBER), Mr SHERLOCK, Mrs SPAAK and Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE.

The report was tabled on 2 May 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be considered.

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The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the limiting of animal experiments and the protection of laboratory animals

The European Parliament,

having regard to

- the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs DURY and Mr GLINNE on behalf of the Socialist Group on the regulations governing the Lethal Dose 50% Test (Doc. 1-1096/83),
- the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs HERKLOTZ and Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING on the limiting of animal experiments and the protection of laboratory animals (Doc. 1-1254/83),
- numerous questions by Members of the European Parliament to the Commission and Council,
- the draft European Convention of the Council of Europe on the protection of vertebrates used for experimental and other scientific purposes,
- the OECD guidelines on 'good laboratory practice' (GLP),
- the OECD guidelines for toxicity testing,
- the biotechnological research programme of the European Community,
- the preliminary draft of the Commission of the European Communities for an action programme on toxicology as part of health protection,

- numerous laws and regulations at national and European level which directly or indirectly result in animal experiments,
 - Article 59 of the Draft Treaty establishing the European Union 'The Union shall take measures designed to provide for animal protection',
 - the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-213/84),
- A. recognizing the different points of view taken by those absolutely opposed to animal experiments, those favouring animal experiments who see no reason to change the present situation and the moderate representatives of both sides who recognize the need for animal experiments in certain areas but who are concerned to reduce the number of animal experiments and improve the living conditions of laboratory animals,
 - B. seeking as politicians to create the necessary conditions for restricting suffering on the part of the animals and reconcile the different points of view,
 - C. recognizing that it is not enough for the European Community to accede to the proposed Council of Europe Convention but that there is a need to review present legislation in the Community and create at European level the legal bases for carrying out animal experiments,
 - D. recognizing that with present legislation and the safety needs of the population, the demand for a total ban on animal experiments is unrealistic,
 - E. whereas Members of the European Parliament are calling for a general ban on carrying out animal experiments and only wish to see exceptions permitted where necessary and subject to strict conditions,
 - F. convinced that it is possible to reduce considerably the number of animal experiments currently being carried out so as to restrict these to the absolute minimum recognized as necessary,
 - G. convinced that a substantial reduction in animal experiments can only be achieved if those who are constantly setting ever higher standards for product safety are prepared to reconsider,

1. Calls for a ban on animal experiments in the following areas:

- (a) animal experiments should not be carried out if the same results can be achieved by other methods, for example using materials insensitive to pain,
- (b) a ban on all animal experiments where the outcome is already known and which are unlikely to provide any new insights,
- (c) a ban on animal experiments carried out to save labour, time or costs,
- (d) a ban on all experiments involving animals threatened with extinction,
- (e) a ban on animal experiments which involve serious injury to non-anaesthetized animals,

2. Calls for the restriction and reduction of animal experiments (especially in primary and secondary education) to the absolute minimum necessary and as a very last resort by means of such measures as are feasible within the framework of the European Community:

- (a) avoiding duplication of experiments and unnecessary repetitions of animal experiments by
 - creating a central data bank for animal experiments at Community level,
 - mutual recognition of product licensing,
 - mutual recognition of the findings from animal experiments,
 - introduction and standardization of the notification and approval procedures for carrying out animal experiments;
- (b) reducing the number of animal experiments by
 - a review of legal requirements which compel recourse to animal experiments,
 - review of certain tests such as the acute toxicity test with the aim to increase the emphasis placed on cageside and other toxicological observations while accepting approximate LD 50 values obtained from these tests as sufficient; such acute toxicity test results would form an adequate input for the specification of dangerous substances,

- applying alternative and supplementary methods such as in-vitro techniques, in particular tissue and cell cultures, experiments on individual organs, experiments on lower forms of life, such as bacteria, amoeba, micro-fungi, experiments with chicken or sea urchin eggs and theoretical methods such as electronic data processing, epidemiological studies and mechanical models;
- (c) compilation of statistics on animal experiments;
3. Calls for compulsory notification and authorization of animal experiments to restrict abuses as far as possible and improve the conditions under which experimental animals are kept;
- (a) introduction of compulsory notification for all experiments on non-vertebrates and all experiments required by law,
- (b) introduction of compulsory licensing for all other animal experiments,
- (c) the following requirements must be met for notification and authorization:
- a demonstrable need for the animal experiment,
 - proof of the qualifications of the scientists carrying out the animal experiments,
 - use only of animals coming from specially licensed and supervised animal breeding stations,
 - proper accommodation for laboratory animals,
 - experiments carried out wherever possible under anaesthetic followed by a painless death,
 - care and treatment for animals where this is still possible,
 - the creation of an ethics committee or independent person responsible for animal protection in all institutions carrying out animal experiments;
4. Calls for financial and scientific assistance to be given to research into methods which can be used as an alternative to or to supplement animal experiments;

5. Calls for a comprehensive statement by the Commission on the protection of animals used for animal experiments as a basis for discussion by the Council;
6. Requests that consideration be given, in appropriate instances, to amending producers' liability in respect of new products which have been produced without the aid of experiments previously conducted on animals, provided that this fact is specifically stated on the packaging of such products;
7. Calls on its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

